

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/660,624

Examiner

Thomas A. Morrison

Applicant(s)

MASUI ET AL.

Art Unit

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the 10/18/2005 Amendment.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6 and 8-12.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Stahl (Registration No. 30,110) on October 31, 2005.

First, it is noted that applicant's amendment to the specification beginning at page 6, line 26 and ending at page 7, line 14 in the amendment of April 28, 2005 **has not been entered**. In particular, the text of the specification that applicant wanted to change does not match up with the text of the specification beginning at page 6, line 26 and ending at page 7, line 14. Thus, this change cannot be made.

On the other hand, the following changes to the specification of the instant application have been made by this examiner's amendment.

The paragraph spanning pages 6-7, beginning on page 6, line 19 has been amended as follows:

-- Further, FIG. 7 is a block diagram illustrating a control system of the document feeding apparatus. In FIG. 7, reference numeral 100 designates an operation portion. Reference numeral 110 designates a control portion for controlling the document feeding apparatus. Reference numeral 120 designates sensors including a sensor 7

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described later. Reference numeral 130 designates motors which may serve as driving portions for driving various movable members such as a pressure plate 3, a shutter 4, and a sheet feeding roller 5 described later. --

The paragraph spanning pages 8-9, beginning on page 8, line 26 has been amended as follows:

-- Reference numeral 4 designates a shutter provided at approximately the same place as the document hitting portion 2B so as to be retractably disposed in a document conveyance path between the feed roller 5 and the separating and feeding portion. As illustrated in FIG. 1 2, the shutter 4 can be moved from a position indicated by the alternate long and two short dashes line underneath a document supporting surface 2C of the supporting stand 2 to a position indicated by the solid line in which a leading edge of the document 13 hits against the shutter 4, when the bundle of documents 13 is aligned as described later. The document 13 can be prevented from entering the separating and feeding portion by the thus-projected shutter 4 during the aligning operation. --

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In claim 4, line 2 before "an", "has" has been changed to -- have --.

In claim 5, line 2 before "a", "has" has been changed to -- have --.

In claim 8, line 4 before "during", "sheet" has been changed to -- sheets --.

In claim 8, line 5 before "moved", "sheet" has been changed to -- sheets --.

In claim 8, line 6 before "during", "sheet" has been changed to -- sheets --.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

U.S. Patent No. 4,295,645 (Nahar et al.) is the closest prior art reference of record. The Nahar patent discloses a sheet feeding apparatus with a sheet supporting stand; a sheet feeding portion; a hitting portion; an aligning portion which vibrates a bundle of sheets upward and downward and moves the bundle of sheets in a sheet feeding direction while supporting the bundle of sheets at at least two locations of the sheet supporting stand; and a pressure portion which thrusts the bundle of sheets toward the sheet feeding portion during feeding by the sheet feeding portion. However, the Nahar et al. patent fails to disclose a pressure portion that operates as claimed. More specifically, the Nahar et al. patent fails to disclose or suggest that the pressure portion is moved by a driving portion under control of a control portion so as to weaken a pressing force exerted on the bundle of sheets during an aligning operation of the aligning portion.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

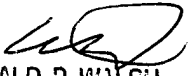
accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

**Conclusion**

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Morrison whose telephone number is (571) 272-7221. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Walsh can be reached on (571) 272-6944. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
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